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COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, *the* *19th of December 1929.* / *4th of Dhanu 1105.*

The House met at Half past Eleven of the Clock with the President in the Chair. All the Members were present.

Swearing in of a New Member.

(Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar, Excise Superintendent, took and subscribed the oath of allegiance.)

Questions and Answers.

Private Irrigation in Chittur.

91. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to an article in the 'Cochin Argus', May 25, 1929, regarding "the system of private irrigation in Chittur Taluk;" if so, what action have they taken regarding the serious complaints against the private anicut owners;

(b) (1) the names of all the private anicut owners:

(2) has the Government any hold on the anicut owners for the distribution of water; if so, what;

(3) what is the Government rate for water to one acre of land in Chittur and what is the charge generally made by private owners;

(4) what is the approximate land-tax per acre in that area;

(5) were there complaints from the land owners regarding water supply; if so, were any enquiries conducted and what were the results of the enquiry;

(6) have any statements been recorded regarding the levy of cess; if so, what were those rates and what is actually the present rate collected;

(7) are these anicuts constructed on poramboke or on private lands;

(8) is there any agreement between the Government and the anicut owners; if so, will a copy of any one agreement be placed on the Table;

(9) the names of signatories in the petitions to build anicuts;

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(10) will a copy of one of the petitions be placed on the Table?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(a) The Government have perused the article. No action was taken as no complaint had been received from the parties concerned against the private anicut owners.

(b) (1) Vide answer to part (b) of question No. 5 of the Budget Session of 1104.

(2) No.

(3) The Government levy water-cess only in the case of lands classified as parambas in the settlement and subsequently converted into niloms. The cess levied is Rs. 5 per acre for single crop. An additional cess of Rs. 2—8—0 per acre is levied when a second crop is raised.

It is understood that private anicut owners charge at rates ranging from 12½ pāras to 25 paras of paddy per acre.

(4) The land-tax varies from Rs. 3—8—0 to Rs. 5—8—0 per acre.

(5) No. No enquiries were, therefore, conducted.

(6) The question does not arise in view of the answer to (5).

(7) The anicuts are constructed on porambokes.

(8) No.

(9) To answer this question old records of several years have to be examined, which besides being laborious would take much time.

(10) The question does not arise in view of the answer to (9).

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Does the Government attach any importance to newspaper articles regarding Cochin?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Some importance is attached.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Are inquiries generally made?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—No inquiries have been made.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Not regarding this. Are inquiries generally made, if any allegations are found in the newspapers?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—If the allegations are of such a nature that they require to be inquired into, inquiries will be made.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Were there allegations in this article regarding the private owners in Chittur?

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Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—There seem to be some allegations that they are collecting high rates of assessment and all that.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Are they not serious allegations?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—But this is a matter between the private owners.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Cannot the Government acquire the system?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—If funds are available, and if the matter is of far-reaching consequences, the Government might acquire.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Are not these bunds constructed on *poramboke*s?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The answer is given there. They are.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—So, how is it that the Government has no hold on the bunds constructed on *poramboke*s?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—They have been constructed with permission.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The answer to (3) is: "the Government levy water-cess only in the case of lands classified as *paramba*s in the settlement and subsequently converted into *nilom*s. The cess levied is Rs 5 per acre for single crop. An additional cess of Rs. 2-8-0 per acre is levied when a second crop is raised. It is understood that private anicut owners charge at rates ranging from 12½ *para*s to 25 *para*s of paddy per acre".

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Not always between 12½ and 25.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is it not very hard on the part of the anicut owners?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—That is a matter of opinion.

Private Irrigation Canals and Systems in Chittur.

92. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to furnish the information required in question No. 5 (d) and (e) of the Budget Session of 1104 during the last 12 years?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(d) There were no written complaints.

(e) The question does not arise in view of answer to (d).

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—(5) (d). Were there any complaints to the Government by the people referred to in (c) (2) above about their difficulties on account of the private nature of these systems and what was the nature of the complaints". The answer is "There were no

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